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**CONTRA COSTA
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**HEALTH ALERT
OCTOBER 6, 2014**

EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE (EVD)-UPDATE

CURRENT SITUATION:

West Africa is currently experiencing the largest ever outbreak of EVD. Since March 2014 the countries of Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Nigeria have all recorded cases of EVD due to the Zaire strain of Ebola virus. Since August 31, 2014 no new cases have occurred in Nigeria, suggesting that the Ebola outbreak in Nigeria may be contained.

- There was an imported case identified in Texas on September 30. As of October 3, there have been no EVD cases acquired in the United States.
- Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS) is working with local hospitals and the California Department of Public Health to prepare for the possibility that a returning traveler from one of the affected areas* develops illness that may be concerning for EVD.

Actions Requested of Healthcare Professionals:

1. **Post** signs in acute care and triage areas asking patients to immediately inform staff if they are ill and recently traveled to countries with active Ebola outbreaks*.
2. **Establish** a routine process to immediately ask any patient presenting with **fever** about travel. Travel history is essential to the recognition of patients with Ebola or other imported diseases.
3. **Consider** EVD in patients using CDC algorithm and checklist:
<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/ebola-algorithm.pdf>
<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/checklist-patients-evaluated-us-evd.pdf>
4. **Report suspect EVD cases immediately** to CCHS Public Health Division Communicable Disease Program for consultation and guidance regarding possible testing. 8am-5pm Monday-Friday: (925) 313-6740. After hours: contact the On-Call Health Officer at (925) 646-2441.

*For an updated list of affected countries:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/distribution-map.html#areas>

Contra Costa Health Services Ebola information: cchealth.org/ebola

Sample signs for posting in health care facilities:

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/em/hospital-signs-tabloid.pdf>

Additional languages available: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/hcp/infectious-diseases.shtml>

CDC Ebola information for healthcare workers: www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/

